

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 471

amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Louden, to open on LB 471.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LB 471 is intended to improve safety for railroad workers and the motoring public. LB 471 would allow railroad vehicles, that are stopped to load or unload passengers, to have rotating amber lights. The statute to be amended currently lists five other types of vehicles that may use these lights, and you may read those in the bill. The railroads use a taxi service to bring crews to and from trains that have been sidetracked, or when crews run out of time, so to speak. This term is applied to crewmen that have worked their allotted time and have not reached their destination with the train they were operating. Consequently, the railroads use the public highway to transport new crews to the trains and return the crews who have completed their shift. Many times, a vehicle that is loading and unloading crews is parked on a public highway, because a large numbers of miles of our highway system parallel a railroad track. A case in point is Highway 2, from Crawford, in District 49, that I represent. This highway parallels the Burlington Northern Santa Fe almost all the way to Lincoln. Also, the Union Pacific parallels state highways from west of Morrill, in District 49, to North Platte, and beyond Grand Island to Omaha. LB 471 had no opponents at the...at its hearing before the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, and the bill was advanced with no dissenting votes and no amendments. I ask for your vote to advance the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. You've heard the opening on LB 471. Open for discussion on that motion. Senator Louden, there are no...he waives the opportunity to close. The question before the body is, shall LB 471 advance to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 471.